

Report on the Purbeck Transport Action Group Meeting

1 October 2024

Notes by Helen Sumbler, full minutes to come from Nick Ward.

Noting items of particular relevance to Corfe Castle Parish.

4. Ferry Company Proposals

There will be a Public inquiry, starting Tuesday 10 December held at Studland Village Hall. The Consortium, of which CCPC is a member, will be putting forward a counter proposal, which has to be submitted by 1 November. The consortium will have legal representation. Dorset Cllr Ben Wilson has spoken to our MP Lloyd Hatton and he is prepared to pick up anything in Parliament if necessary. PTAG will be following the consortium's progress and will support as required.

6. Local Transport Plan

Owen Clark is the lead on this, nothing to report at this stage other than it is being worked on. No information on a target date for publication.

7. Active Travel

The lack of progress on the Norden to Corfe Castle footpath / cycle route was discussed, there was no new information to add to what has already be said at CCPC meetings. Cllr Ben Wilson stated the Whytch Farm cycle route is progressing and due to be completed in 2025, I asked for a copy of the plan of the route for this and Cllr Ben Wilson said he would obtain one.

8. Public Transport

It is possible the government subsidised £2 bus fares may end on 31 December 2024 or may increase to £2.50 or £3. There was discussion about the need for additional bus services to places currently not served.

I stated CCPC had / were going to request a shuttle bus between Purbeck Park and the village centre to compensate for the lack of progress on the footpath and cycle route. I was asked if we had already written to DC and I said I didn't know. Adrian Glover stated it might be worth writing to Emily McCurdy, the Public and Community Transport Officer, as DC can offer grants for community schemes like this shuttle bus for organisations like parish councils to work in partnership with other organisations to initiate such schemes. He spoke to me afterwards and expanded on this, saying we would need to have 50% match funding for any grant we applied for.

The Swanage Railway line between Norden and Wareham is out of action at present due to a bridge strike on Grange Road causing significant damage to the bridge structure.

South West Trains are proposing to run a service between Brockenhurst and Wareham, I'm not sure when it is intended this might start.